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HOUSE BILL 966

43RD LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 1997

INTRODUCED BY

SHERYL M WILLIAMS

AN ACT

RELATING TO AFRICAN AMERICANS; CREATING THE COMMISSION ON
AFRICAN AMERICAN AFFAIRS; CREATING AN OFFICE; PRESCRIBING POWERS
AND DUTIES; MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

Section 1. [NEW MATERIAL] SHORT TITLE. --This act may be
cited as the "African American Affairs Act".

Section 2. [NEW MATERIAL] DEFINITIONS. --As used in the
African American Affairs Act:

- A. "commission" means the commission on African
American affairs;
- B. "fund" means the office on African American
affairs fund; and
- C. "office" means the office on African American
affairs.

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1 Section 3. [NEW MATERIAL] COMMISSION--CREATED--
2 MEMBERSHIP--TERMS--COMPENSATION.--

3 A. The "commission on African American affairs" is
4 created. The commission shall consist of nine members appointed
5 by the governor to represent all fields of interest to African
6 Americans. Members shall be appointed for staggered terms. Of
7 the initial board, the terms of three members expire June 30,
8 1998, the terms of three members expire June 30, 1999 and the
9 terms of three members expire June 30, 2000; thereafter,
10 appointments shall be for terms of three years or less made in
11 such manner that the terms of five members expire on June 30 of
12 each year. Members shall be appointed so as to represent all
13 areas of the state. No more than five members shall belong to
14 any one political party.

15 B. A majority of the commission's members
16 constitutes a quorum for the transaction of business. The
17 governor shall designate a chairman and vice chairman from among
18 the membership. The commission may elect other officers as it
19 deems necessary.

20 C. Members of the commission may be reimbursed as
21 nonsalaried public officials as provided in the Per Diem and
22 Mileage Act and shall receive no other compensation, perquisite
23 or allowance.

24 Section 4. [NEW MATERIAL] COMMISSION--POWERS AND
25 DUTIES.--

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A. The commission shall:

(1) study issues important to African Americans, including history and culture; education, scholarships and other financial assistance for education and career development; economic and social problems and issues such as jobs, housing, discrimination, family support, youth idleness and crime; and health care, maternal and child health, teen pregnancy, access and other health issues;

(2) secure recognition of African Americans' accomplishments and contributions to New Mexico and the United States;

(3) cooperate with and assist public and private entities dealing with issues important to African Americans;

(4) direct the operations of the office; and

(5) otherwise act as an advocate for African American citizens of New Mexico.

B. The commission may:

(1) conduct periodic conferences throughout the state to inform African Americans of the opportunities available to them through state and private sources, to encourage them to share their history and culture with other New Mexicans and participate in the social and political processes of their communities and to learn from conference participants their needs and problems; and

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1 (2) perform such other actions as necessary to
2 carry out its powers and duties pursuant to the African American
3 Affairs Act.

4 Section 5. [NEW MATERIAL] OFFICE--CREATED--POWERS AND
5 DUTIES.--

6 A. The "office on African American affairs" is
7 created. The office shall carry out the directions of the
8 commission.

9 B. The commission shall appoint the director, who
10 shall work at the pleasure of the commission. The director,
11 with the advice of the commission, shall employ other necessary
12 employees who shall be subject to the provisions of the
13 Personnel Act.

14 C. The office shall:

15 (1) act as a clearinghouse for information
16 important to the African American community;

17 (2) function as the coordinating office for all
18 services and activities of state agencies and programs
19 pertaining to African Americans;

20 (3) encourage funding and implementation of
21 training programs and other opportunities for African Americans;

22 (4) promote and develop programs about
23 community resources designed to meet the needs of African
24 Americans;

25 (5) serve as staff for the commission;

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1 (6) prepare and submit a budget for the office
2 and commission and the Martin Luther King, Jr. commission; and

3 (7) publish an annual report on the activities
4 and services of the office and commission.

5 D. The office may:

6 (1) adopt and promulgate rules and regulations
7 in accordance with the State Rules Act to carry out the duties
8 of the office and the commission;

9 (2) accept gifts, grants, donations, bequests
10 and devises from any source to be used to carry out its duties;
11 and

12 (3) enter into contracts.

13 Section 6. [NEW MATERIAL] FUND--CREATED--
14 ADMINISTRATION.--The "office on African American affairs fund"
15 is created in the state treasury. The fund shall consist of
16 appropriations, gifts, grants, donations and bequests. Money in
17 the fund at the end of any fiscal year shall not revert. The
18 fund shall be administered by the office, and disbursements from
19 the fund shall be made on warrant drawn by the secretary of
20 finance and administration pursuant to vouchers signed by the
21 director of the office or his authorized representative.
22 Expenditures of general fund and other state fund appropriations
23 shall be subject to appropriation by the legislature and
24 pursuant to a budget approved by the state budget division of
25 the department of finance and administration.

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State of New Mexico
House of Representatives

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FORTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE
FIRST SESSION, 1997

February 27, 1997

Mr. Speaker:

Your CONSUMER AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE, to whom has been referred

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has had it under consideration and reports same with recommendation that it DO PASS, amended as follows:

1. On page 5, line 2, strike "and the Martin Luther King, Jr. commission".

2. On page 6, line 6, after "shall" insert "not"., and thence referred to the APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCE COMMITTEE.

FORTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE
FIRST SESSION, 1997

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Respectfully submitted,

Gary King, Chairman

Adopted _____ Not Adopted _____

(Chief Clerk)

(Chief Clerk)

Date _____

The roll call vote was 8 For 0 Against

Yes: 8

Excused: Rios, Vaughn

Absent: None

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